

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

SAMUEL ROY JACKSON,
TDCJ-CID NO.1268721,

Petitioner,

v.

RICK THALER,

Respondent.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. H-11-3504

OPINION ON DISMISSAL

Petitioner Samuel Roy Jackson, a state inmate proceeding *pro se*, seeks habeas corpus relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2254, from a 2004 conviction for aggravated robbery in the 183rd Criminal District Court of Harris County, Texas in cause number 913043. Petitioner's first federal habeas petition challenging his conviction was dismissed as time-barred. *See Jackson v. Quarterman*, Civil Action No.4:08-0443 (S.D. Tex. June 1, 2009). For the reasons to follow, the Court will dismiss the pending petition without prejudice.

The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 requires dismissal of a second or successive petition filed by a state prisoner under § 2254 unless specified conditions are met. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(1)-(2). A petition is successive when, as here, it raises a claim or claims challenging the petitioner's conviction or sentence that was or could have been raised in an earlier petition, or otherwise constitutes an abuse of the writ.¹ *See In re Cain*, 137 F.3d 234, 235 (5th Cir. 1998); *see also Leal Garcia v. Quarterman*, 573 F.3d 214 (5th Cir. 2009). The fact that the earlier petition was dismissed with prejudice on limitations grounds does not remove the subsequent petition from the second-successive requirements of § 2244(b). *See Hooker v. Sivley*,

¹Title 2244(b) does not define what constitutes a "second or successive habeas corpus application." Even so, the Court finds the pending petition for habeas relief is a "second or successive habeas corpus application" within the meaning of section 2244(b) because it, like petitioner's previous habeas application, challenges petitioner's conviction in cause number 913043.

187 F.3d 680, 682 (5th Cir. 1999). *Compare Gonzalez v. Crosby*, 545 U.S. 524, 533 n.6 (2005). Thus, before such a petition is filed in federal district court, the petitioner must move in the appropriate court of appeals for an order authorizing the district court to consider the application. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3).

In this case, petitioner has not made any showing of having obtained authorization from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to file a successive federal habeas corpus application. Because petitioner has failed to obtain the appropriate appellate court permission to file a successive federal habeas petition as required by 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A), this Court has no authority to consider his request for relief. Consequently, this Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction to consider petitioner's application for a writ of habeas corpus.

Accordingly, this action is DISMISSED without prejudice to seeking authorization from the court of appeals to proceed in this Court on any new claims.

Petitioner has not made a substantial showing that "jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right," and that such jurists "would find it debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling." *Beazley v. Johnson*, 242 F.3d 248, 263 (5th Cir. 2001) (quoting *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000)). For this reason, this court finds that a certificate of appealability should not issue in this case.

Petitioner's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (Docket Entry No.2) is DENIED. All other pending motions are DENIED.

SIGNED at Houston, Texas, this 5th day of October, 2011.


MELINDA HARMON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE